

# The First Skyscraper

Genesis 11:1-9; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 117-124

**H**ave you ever met someone and could not understand the words they were speaking? That may be because they were speaking a different language. A long time ago, everyone spoke the same language. Then some people disobeyed God. That changed everything.

**L**ong ago, after God created the earth, everyone spoke the same language.

They used the same names for everything they had or did. No matter where they lived or where they moved, they could talk to one another and understand each other. As some people moved farther away, they found a beautiful plain called Shinar and decided to live there.

The people of Shinar made bricks and baked them to make them hard. So they used bricks for building instead of stones and tar to hold the bricks together.

One day someone said, "Let's build for ourselves a city and a tower. And let's make the top of the tower reach high into the sky."

Someone else may have said, "We will become famous. We will be able to live in our city forever and will not be scattered all over the earth."

So people began to gather the materials they needed. They got the bricks and the tar, and they began to build.

All day the people worked hard. They passed the bricks and tar from worker to worker until

they reached the bricklayers at the top. Soon the tower grew higher and higher. The people felt very clever.

God watched them build. He was not pleased. At Creation He had told Adam and Eve and He told Noah after the Flood, "Have many children. Fill the earth."

This meant He wanted

their descendants to live all over the earth and not in just one place.

But the people at Shinar weren't listening to God. They wanted to live in one place. They wanted to do their own thing. They thought they knew better than God, so they disobeyed.



# The Message

*We serve God when we help people who are different from us.*

## Memory Verse

*“God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right”*

*(Acts 10:34, 35).*

But even though the people were disobeying God, He still cared about them. Each one was still special to Him.

And because He loved them so much, God made a plan to help them do the right thing. He caused the people to use different words for the same thing. He changed their one language to many languages.

“I need more bricks,” a workman may have called. His helper, not understanding him, may have called to the men on the ground, “Send up a load of tar.”

“Water!” the men on the ground may have replied. “We’re sending up water!”

Can you imagine how angry the workers at the top were when the water arrived?

Soon all the workers began to argue and fight. They could not finish their tower. In fact, they couldn’t understand each other well enough to live in the same city.

So, some people moved to the east and some to the west. Some went north and others south. They spread out all over the world in groups that could understand each other. And that is how people speaking different languages came to be.

Today there are many different people all over the world. But: “God does not show favoritism” (Acts 10:34). He loves and helps everyone, and we should too!





## S A B B A T H

**DO** With a family member, go near a very tall building, if possible. Or, with parent supervision, climb a ladder or tree. Imagine that you are looking up at the Tower of Babel. Later, find a quiet place and read the lesson story together. Also, read the memory verse from the Bible (Acts 10:34, 35).

## S U N D A Y

### READ

In your Bible, find Genesis 11:1-9 and read about the Tower of Babel. If all those people had been allowed to live in the tower, what problems might they have had with food, water, cleanliness, and daily living?

### DO

Look through a newspaper or magazine and cut out pictures of tall buildings. Glue them across the bottom of a big piece of paper. Save the paper for tomorrow.

### DO

Say your memory verse to an adult.

## M O N D A Y

### READ

Ask a family member to read Acts 17:26. Tell in your own words what this verse means. Tell an adult how you might feel if someone spoke another language in front of you.

### DO

Look through a newspaper or magazine and cut out pictures of people who might speak a language different from yours. Glue the pictures to the paper you started yesterday. Show your picture to someone in your family and tell them about it.

## T U E S D A Y

### DO

Imagine what the Tower of Babel looked like. Make one Tower of Babel cutout for each word of the memory verse. Write each word of the memory verse on a different cutout. Mix the cutouts and put them in order. Save them.

### READ

With a family member, read Isaiah 58:10. Tell what this verse means. Then take a walk in your community. Think of some things people in your neighborhood need. Decide how you and your family can help with one of those needs. Ask God to help you do it this week.

## W E D N E S D A Y

### SING

As you think about your plan to help someone in your community, sing, hum, play, or listen to "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129).

### DO

Using your memory verse cutouts, say your memory verse to your family.

### DO

Find some empty boxes, blocks, or cartons and build a tower. How high can you make it before it falls? When you finish, measure its height. With a family member, read Genesis 11:4. How high did the builders plan to build their tower?

The people building the Tower of Babel made their own bricks. Baking bricks made them hard.



## THURSDAY

**READ**

At what other time in the Bible did people suddenly start to speak in other languages? See Acts 2:4. Ask an adult to explain this verse.

**DO**

Try to say Hello in at least one foreign language.

**DO**

Say your memory verse to at least two people.



## FRIDAY

**DO**

At worship, do a charade of the Tower of Babel story. Say your memory verse.

**DO**

Ask a family member to read or tell a story about a missionary in a country where your language is not spoken.

**READ**

Read together 1 John 4:8. With your family, decide how you might tell someone who speaks another language about Jesus and His love. How might you say "Jesus loves you" without actually saying anything?

**DO**

Tell how it made you feel to help someone this week. Together, sing a song about God's love.

# PUZZLE

**Directions:** The people at the tower tried hard to understand each other. Try to understand this sentence by figuring out which words are scrambled and then unscrambling them. Read the correct sentence when you are done.

